

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of forming a three-dimensional structure from a flat stock, the flat stock having a surface defining a plane, the method comprising the steps of:
displacing a first portion of the flat stock in a first direction relative to the plane while maintaining at least a first connecting portion joining the first portion to the flat stock; and
displacing a second portion of the flat stock in the second direction relative to the plane while maintaining at least a second connecting portion joining the second portion to the flat stock; and
joining the first portion and the second portion to form the three-dimensional structure.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of separating the three-dimensional structure from the flat stock by severing the first and second connecting portions.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising forming a plurality of three-dimensional structures from the flat stock, each of the three-dimensional structures being retained to the flat stock subsequent to formation by respective first and second connecting portions.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the flat stock comprises a strip of stock material, the method further comprising forming a plurality of three-dimensional structures from the strip and collecting the strip for subsequent processing.
5. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of collecting the strip comprises separating the strip into segments, each segment having a predetermined number of three-dimensional structures formed therein.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of displacing a first portion of the flat stock comprises cutting a portion of the flat stock and plastically deforming the cut portion.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of joining the first portion and the second portion comprises displacing at least one of the first portion and the second portion relative to the other of the first portion and the second portion to proximally locate the first portion and the second portion and joining the first portion and the second portion.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of joining the first portion and the second portion comprises at least one of: welding, mechanically coupling and bonding.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising providing in the flat stock at least one locating feature for use in locating the flat stock during formation of the three-dimensional structure.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first direction and the second direction are the same.

11. A method of forming a linkage assembly for joining an armature to a diaphragm of a receiver for a hearing aid comprising:

providing a flat stock of material, the flat stock having a surface defining a plane;

displacing a first linkage member from the flat stock in a first direction relative to the plane, the first linkage member being retained to the flat stock by a first connecting member;

displacing a second linkage member from the flat stock in a second direction relative to the plane, the second linkage member being retained to the flat stock by a second connecting member; and

joining the first linkage member and the second linkage member to form the linkage assembly.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising separating the linkage assembly from the flat stock.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising joining the linkage assembly to a receiver motor assembly, and separating the linkage assembly from the flat stock.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the first direction and the second direction are the same.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of joining the first linkage member and the second linkage member comprises at least one of: welding, mechanically coupling and bonding.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the flat stock comprises a strip of stock material, the method further comprising forming a plurality of linkage assemblies from the strip and collecting the strip for subsequent processing.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the step of collecting the strip comprises separating the strip into segments, each segment having a predetermined number of linkage assemblies formed therein.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising joining to each of the predetermined number of linkage assemblies on a segment a receiver motor assembly, and separating the linkage assemblies from the strip.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of displacing a first linkage assembly from the flat stock comprises cutting a portion of the flat stock and plastically deforming the cut portion.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing in the flat stock at least one locating feature for use in locating the flat stock during formation of the linkage assembly.

21. The method of claim 11, further comprising providing in the flat stock at least one access aperture for use in joining the first linkage member and the second linkage member.

22. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of displacing at least one of the first linkage member and the second member assembly relative to the other of the first linkage member and the second linkage member such that the first linkage member and the second linkage member are proximally located for being joined.

23. A sub-assembly usable in the manufacture of a receiver for a hearing aid comprising:

a strip of flat stock material having a surface defining a plane; and
a linkage assembly formed from the strip and secured to the strip by at least one severable connecting member, the linkage assembly having at least a first linkage member displaced from the strip relative to the plane and a second linkage member displaced from the strip and relative to the plane, the first and second linkage members being joined.

24. The sub-assembly of claim 23, further comprising a receiver motor assembly coupled to the linkage assembly.

25. The sub-assembly of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of linkage assemblies formed in the strip.

26. The sub-assembly of claim 25, further comprising an armature of a receiver motor assembly being coupled to each the plurality of linkage assemblies.

27. The sub-assembly of claim 25, the strip comprising a segment flat stock having a predetermined number of linkage assemblies formed therein.

28. The sub-assembly of claim 23, the first linkage member and the second linkage member being joined by at least one of: welding, mechanical coupling and bonding.

29. The sub-assembly of claim 23, wherein the strip is formed to include at least one locating feature for use in assembling the sub-assembly.

30. The sub-assembly of claims 23, wherein the strip is formed to include at least one access aperture for use in joining the first linkage member and the second linkage member.

31. A receiver for a hearing aid comprising:
 a housing for the receiver;
 a diaphragm disposed within the housing, the diaphragm having a first end and a second end, the first end being hinged to the housing;
 a receiver motor including an armature disposed within the housing;
 and
 a linkage assembly mechanically coupling the armature to the second end of the diaphragm, the linkage assembly having at least a first linkage member displaced from a strip of stock material relative to the plane and a second linkage member displaced from the strip and relative to the plane, the first and second linkage members being joined while secured to strip and the linkage assembly having a severable connecting member securing the linkage member to the strip during formation of the linkage member, the connecting member being severed to release the linkage member from the strip for assembly of the linkage member into the receiver.

32. A method of making a receiver for a hearing aid comprising:
 forming a linkage assembly from a flat stock material, the flat stock of material having a surface defining a plane, the linkage assembly having at least a first linkage member displaced from the flat stock material relative to the plane and a second linkage member displaced from the flat stock material and relative to the plane, the first and second linkage members being joined while secured to strip and the linkage assembly having a severable connecting member securing the linkage member to the strip during formation of the linkage member,
 providing a motor assembly for the receiver the motor assembly including an armature, and coupling the motor assembly to the linkage assembly to provide a motor subassembly;
 providing a housing for the receiver;
 disposing within the housing a diaphragm, the diaphragm having a first end and a second end, the first end being hinged to the housing;

separating the linkage assembly from the strip by severing the connecting member;
disposing motor subassembly within the housing; and
coupling the linkage assembly to the second end of the diaphragm and to the armature.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the linkage assembly further comprises a leg member, the leg member being displaced from the flat stock materials and being joined to the first linkage member and the second linkage member, and wherein
the step coupling the motor assembly comprises securing the leg member to the motor assembly.